

Holy Presence Catholic Community
Morning Prayer, May 15

Opening and Invitation

As a new day comes, O God, open our hearts and minds to your love, your presence, and your grace. We begin in the name of God who is our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Amen.

“Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Matthew 28:5

Psalm 95: 1-8

Come let us sing for joy to God

Let's shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.

Let's come before God's presence with a song of thanksgiving.

Let's shout joyfully with psalms and instruments.

For ours is a great God, and a great Ruler above all gods.

In God's hand are the caverns of the earth, and also the heights of the hills.

God created the sea and has molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before God our Creator.

For we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

Oh, that today you would hearken to God's voice!

Glory be to God, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.

Words of Confession

Each morning we are graced with a new day, a new beginning. Let us claim this day.

Loving God, you have created us, know us, and claim us as your own. We ask for your forgiveness and grace for all of the times that we have strayed from your path. We ask for the courage to face our errors and willingness to amend our ways, so that we may rest in the peace that only you can give and be your light in this world. Give us the power to love as you love, and to forgive as you forgive.

Assurance

Scripture tells us “If we say, we are without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we acknowledge our sin, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrong doing.” Accept this truth and continue to walk in the path of love, light, and peace. You are a new creation.

The Word of God

Psalm 68:1-25

May God rise up, and the enemies be scattered; may God’s foes flee. As smoke is blown away in the wind, so will they be blown away. As wax melts away before a flame, so will the wicked perish before God. But those who are righteous will rejoice; they will exult before God, crying out with great delight.

Sing to God, sing praise to God’s name; exalt the One who rides upon the clouds. Rejoice in the presence of this God whose name is Love. You O God, parent of orphans and the defender of widows: such You in your holy dwelling place. You gives a home to those who are forsaken and lead out prisoners amid chants of exultation, while rebels are forced to live in an arid land.

O God, when you set out at the head of your people, when you went marching through the wilderness, the earth quaked, and rain poured down from the heavens, at the presence of God, the One of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

You poured down rain in abundance, O God, and revived your exhausted inheritance. It was there that your people settled; and in your great goodness, O God, you provided for those who were needy. God issues the word, and a vast army proclaims good tidings.

Blessed be God, day after day, the God of our salvation, who carries our burden. Our God is a God who saves; the Lord God delivers from death.

Acts 20:28-38

At Miletus, Paul spoke to the presbyters of the Church of Ephesus: "Keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, in which you tend the Church of God that he acquired with his own Blood.

I know that after my departure savage wolves will come among you, and they will not spare the flock. And from your own group, people will come forward perverting the truth to draw the disciples away after them. So be vigilant and remember that for three years, night and day, I unceasingly admonished each of you with tears.

And now I commend you to God and to that gracious word that can build you up and give you the inheritance among all who are consecrated.

I have never wanted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. You know well that these very hands have served my needs and my companions. In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

When he had finished speaking he knelt down and prayed with them all. They were all weeping loudly as they threw their arms around Paul and kissed him, for they were deeply distressed that he had said that they would never see his face again. Then they escorted him to the ship.

John 17:11b-19

Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed, saying: “Holy God, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are one. When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely. I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the Evil One. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth.

As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth.”

The Word of God. Thanks be to God.

Creed

We believe in God, who places joy in our souls, dancing in our toes and songs in our hearts. We believe God wanted gladness to flow like a river, and so created a bountiful earth with plenty for all to share.

We believe in Jesus, who turned water into wine, celebrated with outcasts and sinners, and touched the broken so that they could leap

and dance. We believe that Jesus opened the doors and set an extra place so we could feast.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who prompts us to smile; who sends us invitations to come and dine; who nudges us to openness and tenderness.

We believe the Spirit is present every time we gather to break bread and is urging us to live joyfully and walk hopefully. Forever, we will live in the embrace of God, and be a witness to resurrection joy. Amen.

Prayers

Our Mother and Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and
Forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us away from temptation and deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, now and forever.
Amen.

Prayer for resurrection joy: God, you have overcome the power of death and instilled in us the truth that nothing will ever separate us from you. Help us to immerse our minds and hearts with the knowledge that we are indeed one with Jesus in this world and the next. May we be so filled with joy in this knowledge that we act as a light for this darkening world and become the hope for a better tomorrow.

Prayer for natural disasters: Creator God, our world is filled with fires and floods, droughts and hurricanes. Bring your calming presence to those afflicted by these treacherous events. Help us to remember to

keep those who suffer in the forefront of our lives, giving to them what we can, so they may move beyond and through their circumstances and find wholeness and safety.

Prayer for those who are living life eternal: Loving God, we give you thanks for the people of faith who have guided us, loved us, and been with us. Though they are not sitting near us at the dinner table, we know they are forever in our hearts walking with us on our path. Through our grief of losing them, may we always live in the certain hope that we will be together in your embrace in all eternity.

Prayer for those addicted: God of Mercy, we live in a culture of addiction. Be it drugs, alcohol, shopping, hatred, power - we ask that you make yourself known to all who are active in their addictions. Comfort their fears, open their minds, instill their souls with your love. For those who live in the wake of peoples addictions, grant them hope, peace, and courage to continue to remind those who need it of your love, your strength and your way.

Canticle of Simeon

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled: my own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory be to God, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Light of the world, we come to you with so much to be grateful for....

Grateful for your sustaining grace, mercy, and tenderness. Grateful for a relationship with you that brings light and hope to our lives and the lives of others. Grateful, too, for your unending presence in our lives.

We are grateful for the creation that surrounds and sustains us. The beauty of your trees and flowers, of your seas and mountains. The joy in your creatures – great and small. The wonder of space, the stars; the moon and sun which light our path.

Thank you for the gifts we have been given, the ability to learn and grow in wisdom each day and to deepen our relationship with you; the ability to see your face in every person we meet; the ability to love and be loved, to forgive and to be forgiven.

Thank you God for your everlasting love, for Jesus who makes us a new creation, and for filling our hearts with your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Benediction

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

Isaiah 55:10-11

Thanks be to God.

In the name of our God who is our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier.
Amen.